

# Friendship

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## BISHOP'S LETTER



Firstly I want to praise and thank the Lord because the Bishop of Osaka, Bishop Samuel Osamu Onishi led a group of 7 delegates

from his diocese to visit Taiwan to sign the companion diocese agreement for 3 more years (see photo). During their 5-day visit, we appreciated his message in our synod and also on the Sunday he

preached to all the members of the congregation at St. John's Cathedral. From his message and from his character, it was clear that he really is a truly faithful and loyal servant of the Lord. During our synod we had a meeting about how to improve the interaction between our 2 dioceses, and we will follow all the valuable suggestions to make them happen. In connection with this, we plan to print articles in each other's diocesan magazines, and include any news and prayer requests. The article by one of the Osaka delegates, Rev. Akira Iwaki, chairman of the Osaka Diocese Taiwan Exchange Committee, is printed in both this Friendship and in the Chinese version. We have

also invited 2 of their clergy to participate in our clergy retreat in May in Kaohsiung.

Our pilgrimage to the Holy Land after Chinese New Year was an important part of the program to fulfill our mission goal for 2009: 'Training and Nurture of Clergy, Evangelists and Church Members'. Thank you to all our brothers and sisters who prayed for our safety; everyone on our pilgrimage really experienced the peace of the Lord, even though our visit took place just after the fighting in Gaza. Please do

read both the articles in this magazine about our trip. What I want to emphasize is that after we visited Petra and Jerash, formerly such huge cities but both now in ruins, I realized again that only God's eternal kingdom will last forever, all earthly kingdoms will fall. We need to place

our trust in Almighty God, as the hymn says, 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.'

The prizes for last year's Sunday text exams have already been sent out and each prize has my personal signature and blessing. I want to especially thank the Province of Hong Kong and Macau for sending us 20 copies of their newly-published Bi-





ble (complete with apocrypha) as prizes for the best individuals and families.

On behalf of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, I led the group from the Episcopal Church to attend the installation of the Rt. Rev. Edward Pacyaya Malecchan as the new 4th Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. The service took place in the National Cathedral in Manila on Thursday February 19. All the bishops from Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Australia and West Malaysia were there. During the service we were so moved by the local indigenous people who presented the offering in their traditional style accompanied to their own music. I truly believe that the new primate will have a successful and blessed ministry in the future.

A few years ago, I bought a set of small copper animals, the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac, which I display on my office window ledge. Recently a visitor asked me if they have any connection with the Christian life. I am working on an article to explain the connection, but a few thoughts so far are: I need to learn like the cockerel to wake up early to praise the Lord and commit my day

to Him, I need to learn the faithful service of the ox and never complain about my daily duties, I need the power and strength of the horse to run forward towards our mission goal and never turn back, to be like a soldier and never afraid, I need the willingness of the sheep / goat to always sacrifice myself for the Lord, I need the obedience and loyalty of a dog to be a good servant of the Lord. And then of course, the sheep: Winston Churchill said that of all the animals, he most appreciated the pig, because a pig treats everyone equally and never looks up or down at people.

At the reunion of the Holy Land pilgrimage group on February 22, I encouraged them all to be good ambassadors of the gospel and to spread the good news, and to keep Israel and Palestine in their prayers, also the spread of the gospel in East Asia. I truly expect that through our members being humble and obedient to the Lord, that each of us can be a loyal soldier of the Lord to achieve the great mission that he has called us to join.

## **OTHER DIOCESAN NEWS**

The Rev. Pam Cooper, CMS-UK mission partner in the Diocese of Osaka, Japan, visited Taiwan from Thursday February 19 to Monday February 23. Pam has been a missionary in Osaka for 41 years, and came on her first visit to Taiwan just before she retired at Easter.

The Diocesan Convention was held on Friday March 6 and Saturday March 7 in Kaohsiung, at St. Timothy's Church and the China Trust Hotel. The Diocese of Osaka and the Diocese of Taiwan signed a companion diocese agreement during the convention, to renew the agreement for a further 3 years.

The Diocese of Osaka delegation was led by their new bishop, Bishop Samuel Osamu Onishi. The delegation of 7 members of the Diocese of Osaka visited Taiwan from Thursday March 5 to Monday 9. The diocese also welcomed Mrs. Mimi Wu to the convention, representing Province VIII.

Bishop David Lai visited the USA from March 10 to 24 to attend the House of Bishops meeting in North Carolina.

During his visit to the USA, Bishop David Lai, together with his wife Lily, attended the baptism of their new granddaughter Amber.



She was baptized on Sunday March 22 at St. George's Church, Flushing, New York.

On his return from the USA, Bishop David Lai and Lily announced the engagement of their younger son, Andrew, to Ms. Sarah Huang. Sarah emigrated as a child with her parents from Kaohsiung to the USA, and presently works in New York City. The wedding will take place on Saturday September 12 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Queens, New York. Their engagement meal was held during Bishop Lai's visit to the USA. Please pray for this young couple as they prepare to start their married life together.

The diocese welcomed the visit of Rev. Philip Der, third son of the Rev Edmund Der, former priest in the diocese, now in Canada. Philip preached at Good Shepherd Church and visited familiar places he had known as a child.

Mr. Peter Ng, from the Episcopal Church Center in New York, accompanied 2 of his colleagues for a short visit to Taiwan from Tuesday March 31 to Friday April 3. The colleagues were the Rev. David Copley, Mission Personnel Director and the Rev. Emmanuel Sserwadda, Africa Program Officer. They visited Good Shepherd Church, Trinity Church, St. John's University and Advent Church, and St. James' Church. This photo above shows them at St. James'.

Mr. Warren Parker, formerly CMS-New Zealand, and Mrs. Winsome Bylos, formerly CMS-Australia, both previously in Tanzania, East Africa, visited Taiwan from March 30 to April 14.

The Rev. John Thew, General Secretary of CMS Australia, visited Taiwan from April 14-15. We look forward to further cooperation with CMS-Australia in the future.

At the Diocesan Commission on Ministry meeting on April 15, 2 people were accepted. Deacon Wu Ming-Long was accepted for full-time service, and Mr. Chi Shia-Yuen from St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung was accepted for theological training at seminary. Please pray for them.

The Diocesan clergy retreat will take place at the Grand Hotel, Kaohsiung from May 12-14, and will be led by Archbishop Peter Kwang of Hong Kong Province.



And finally, we are sad to report the death of Mrs. Wu Yu-lee, the mother of retired Bishop John Chien. Bishop Chien writes: "My mother passed away at the age of 90. She had been in a nursing home for the last 6

years since she was paralyzed. The nursing home is quite near my home, and therefore I had tried my best to visit her every day while we were at home. One of the reasons for me to retire early from the post of Bishop was to accompany my mother in the last phase of her life. She died on the 4th of April, Chinese Tomb-Sweeping Day, when all our relatives came back home for that great occasion. My mother was very honored to have 2 priests and one Quaker pastor to hold her funeral service, and also had quite a few priests to attend her funeral and pay respects to her." We extend sincere condolences and sympathy to Bishop John Chien and his family at this time. Please remember them in your prayers.



**Holy Land Pilgrimage**  
**January 26-February 5, 2009**  
**By Winston Yu, St. John's Cathedral, Taipei**

Marjorie and I joined a pilgrimage trip to the Holy Land during the 2009 Chinese New Year holiday. The trip was organized and led by Bishop Lai of the Taiwan Episcopal Diocese. We visited through three countries (Israel, Egypt and Jordan) in nine days and covered many cities and archeological sites of biblical importance. It was a marvelous trip with fantastic weather, and the group consisted of knowledgeable people who showed wonderful fellowship. Most important of all, we thank the Lord for allowing us to visit the Holy Land and bringing us back home safely.

**A wake-up call in Bethlehem**

It was five o'clock in the morning on the first day of our visit to the Holy Land and Marjorie and I were awakened by the loud blast of speakers from the minarets close to our Bethlehem hotel as they called Muslims to pray. At that moment, I was confused. Although I know very well that this land is the cradle of the three great monotheistic religions, and great majority of the local population are Islamic, it still struck me as surreal that I should be woken up after only a short sleep in such a way. Following almost 24 hrs of flights and airport stopovers, I had not been woken by a church bell in the holy city of BETHLEHEM, the place where Jesus was born. In my mind, I think I was expecting church bells subconsciously. On reading the history of the area, Jerusalem, for example, has suffered more than it's fair share of wars and human sacrifice and many of these events were carried out in the name of religion. In contrast, in the history of civilization, religion has generally played a pivotal role in supporting justice and benevolence. If it were not for our faith as individuals, we would not be able to carry out the duties that God has bestowed

upon us. Throughout the trip, I sensed the eagerness of the local people for a peaceful life regardless of their religious background. It is apparent that we have not done enough of God's work to deserve eternal peace and happiness.

**Pools of Bethesda**

Following a visit to the Temple Mount, we walked to the adjacent Church of St Anne, which was built in 1140 on the remains of a Byzantine Church that commemorated the traditional site of Mary's birthplace at the home of her parents Anne and Joachim. In the courtyard of the Church is the Pool of Bethesda where sick and disabled people used to lie and wait to be healed. It was here Jesus miraculously cured a woman who had been sick for 38 years.

(It may be of interest for you to know that I work for the National Institute of Health (NIH), whose HQ are in the U.S.A, located at Bethesda, Maryland. It takes its name from a local church, the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, which in turn takes its name from Jerusalem's Pool of Bethesda. NIH is now one of the foremost and advanced research centers around the world and helps to lead the way toward important medical discoveries that improve people's health and save lives; the NIH provides leadership and financial support to researchers not only in the States but also throughout the world.)

**Via Dolorosa**

This "Way of Sorrow" is Christendom's most sacred route. This is the path from the Praetorium, Pontius Pilate's courtroom in Jerusalem, to Golgotha, the place of Crucifixion and it was followed by Jesus bearing the Cross on his back.



Our visit was not timed with the traditional Friday Franciscan procession to retrace these steps. However, our local guide, Nedal, took us through every station, there are 14 altogether. Nine of the stations are located along the narrow street and five are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. All along, Nedal recounted and explained the happenings in detail and linked them with verses from various books of the Bible. I seriously thought he was preaching rather than leading a tour group. It was quite a moving experience spiritually to actually walk on the very cobblestones where Jesus had staggered and tripped. The street was full of people, pilgrims, tourists, businessmen and bystanders, perhaps just the same make up of crowds that Jesus passed through on that day two thousand years ago.

### **Shepherds' Field**

Emperor Constantine I of Rome and his mother built the Church and Basilica of the Nativity on top of the sacred grotto where Jesus was born. The remains of the original beautiful mosaic floor still can be seen through trapdoors in the floor. Down steps into the basement, there is

the spot where Jesus was born, which is marked by a silver star with the Latin inscription "here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary". Nearby, there is the Manger into which Mary is said to have laid the Child. The basement was full of worshippers and we took turns kneeling in front of the silver star in order to touch it and each then said their own prayers. Despite the noise around us and the supervising priest's efforts to keep the members of the crowd moving swiftly, I grabbed the opportunity to kneel down and thanked the Lord for his generosity in providing us with so much and giving us a joyful life.

Bethlehem's pasture carries a special meaning to all of us because it is where the shepherds heard the good news of Jesus' birth from the angel of the Lord. I have had a picture of this pasture in my mind since childhood. Unfortunately, we did not find time in our busy schedule to enjoy the peace and beauty of this pasture at night, but I have told Marjorie that if we ever visit here again, a night stop at the scenic pasture is a must. Of course, it would be even better to hear Bishop Lai's lecture on star gazing at the same time.



**Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2009**



## **Mounts of Olives and Zion**

This is the place where Jesus taught his disciples, prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem and wept over its fate. On his way from Bethany to Jerusalem and back, Jesus stayed many times at the Gethsemane Garden, and it is also the place where he was taken captive and then brought to the High Priest Caiaphas' house on Mount Zion. Nowadays, the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu is built on top of the house ruins. Jail cells and dungeons from the early Roman period have been found underneath the church and are believed to be similar to the ones in which Jesus was held captive. We went down into the dungeon to try to experience the solitude. While standing in the darkness, our guide read the words from Psalm 88: "O Lord, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you.....For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave.....". We came out of the dungeon in silence.

## **Dead Sea Scrolls**

On our way to the Red Sea, we visited Bethany; the home of Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, Jericho, which is one of the oldest cities in the world with the nearby Mount of Temptation, Ein Gedi, an oasis that has been in existence since King David was on the throne, Masada; the fortress where the Jewish rebellion made its last desperate stand against the Romans in 73 A.D. and Qumran. Qumran came to world's attention in 1947 when two Bedouin shepherd boys, local nomads, found jars containing scrolls from the Second Temple period in one of the caves on the mountain cliff. In the ensuing years, fragments of about nine hundred different scrolls have been discovered in eleven caves. The people who wrote these scrolls have been identified as the Essenes, a religious sect of Jews from Jerusalem, who devoted themselves to rigid spiritual practices every day. The importance of these findings is that they contain every Chapter of the

Old Testament except the book of Esther. These findings clearly verify the Masoretic text that people use today. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls also revealed the existence of this marvelous group of people, who gave up their comfortable way of life in Jerusalem in order to live a religious way of life in the desert that was consistent with their faith.

## **Traveling in Jordan**

After leaving the Sinai Peninsula, we traveled north into Jordan from Aqaba to Jerash and made stops at Petra, Mount Nebo and Bethabara (also called Bethany or Bethany Beyond the Jordan). Petra is a city carved out of the living rock of the mountains. It offers the most spectacular views with sandstone colors blending in the stone carvings cut into the architecture. According to the legend, it was here that Moses struck the rock and drew water. Mount Nebo is where Moses stood and gazed over the Promised Land that he was not allowed to enter after leading his people through the desert for forty years. The lookout point on the mountain on a clear day offers a view that encompasses the Dead Sea, Jericho and Jerusalem in one sweep. Bethabara is believed to be the site where Jesus was baptized by John. While at the hotel beside the Dead Sea, we encountered a group of archaeologists on a dig sponsored by the University of New Mexico. They have been working on several sites nearby, all with biblical relevance. One volunteer from Washington D.C. suggested that we should stay in Jordan longer because there are just so many new sites worthy of a visit.

## **Around Nazareth**

In the city of Jesus' hometown, we visited the Church of Annunciation which was built on the spot where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the coming birth of Jesus. Joseph and Mary's home cave and shop is nearby. The Church of St Joseph was





built over it. Around Nazareth, we visited Mount Tabor, where Jesus was transfigured in front of the eyes of Peter, James and John, Caesarea Philippi, the origin of river Dan, the Mount of the Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, Capernaum, the hometown of St. Peter, where Jesus cured his mother-in-law's fever, Megiddo; a city vital to communication in the region, which has made it the scene of many mighty historical and biblical battles, Mt Carmel where the prophet Elijah stayed and ministered and, finally, Caesarea; the beautiful sea port built by Herod the Great.

### Afterwards

Marjorie and I consider ourselves fortunate to have traveled with this group. The group included Bishop Lai, three priests and their wives, and members from the Episcopal Churches of Taipei, Taichung, Chia-yi and Kaohsiung, together with members from churches of other denominations. It ap-

peared that Marjorie and I were the only ones that have not been baptized. It was a learning experience for me spiritually and also knowledge-wise. Every morning started with a prayer service and hymns. There were also several sharing and fellowship sessions at night. Personally, I would like to express my gratitude to Bishop Lai for all his effort in organizing the trip and for leading us in all the activities. Quite a bit of anxiety was stirred up before the trip started due to the fighting in the Gaza Strip. After a careful survey of the situation and judged from his own experience, Bishop Lai decided to go ahead with the planned trip, which was an insightful decision indeed.



## 'The Covenant Renewed'

Jerry Liang and his wife, Jean Huang, from St. James' Church celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on Mount Sinai!

By Jean Huang, translated by Jerry Liang



Both my husband and I were born into traditional families, his parents believing in the deity En-Zhu-Gong and my parents in Ma-Zu. When we were young, it seemed to us that "God" was only an abstract noun and "Christianity" was just a name for one of the religions in the world. So, quite naturally, our wedding ceremony took place [on January 30, 1979] in accordance with the traditional Taiwanese folk customs, with a male pig sacrificed especially for blessings from gods and goddesses.

My husband Jerry and I have been richly blessed indeed. Although we lived in poverty in the beginning, we worked very hard, and we truly loved and helped each other. In order to make Jerry's dream come true, I encouraged him to quit his job at the elementary school where he had taught for seven years, and to apply for the English department at National Taiwan Normal Uni-

versity. Then, he became a student again!

It was then that God made Jerry know him much better. Having been inspired by something (he says he didn't know exactly what it was at first), Jerry took a selective course called "Biblical Literature." Jerry loves literature very much. God must have known that this subject would be a perfect key to open Jerry's heart and mind with. In the end, Jerry was so moved by Jesus Christ that he decided to become a Christian and was baptized. Oh! How amazing it is that not only Jerry but also I and our son Tony have been Christians . . . for years!

On January 4 this year (2009) we attended a special ceremony at St. James' Church, in Taichung. It was Rev. Charles Chen and his wife Mary Jo's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. To celebrate it, the congregation had arranged a cheerful party; yet more



significantly, Bishop David Lai came and conducted a Christian matrimonial blessing at St. James'. This was extremely surprising and exciting to Rev. Chen and his wife, for 50 years ago they could only have a traditional wedding party, just as Jerry and I did 30 years ago.

This year, Jerry and I joined the Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land. (How grateful we have been for God's amazing grace!) The group of us, 27 people in all, including Rev. Chen and his family, was led by Bishop Lai in person, happily visiting various places in Israel, Egypt, and Jordan from January 26 through February 5.

Incidentally, weeks before we set off, we heard that war broke out around the area of Gaza. Like many members of the group, Jerry and I prayed really hard for this trip, which we had very much wanted to join.

The fact is the group set out on time, as scheduled; we had a meaningful, enjoyable, and memorable journey; and all of us were spiritually strengthened during the trip. With Lord God blessing us day and night, our hearts and our minds were repeatedly renewed, and even our physical strength was improved to some extent.

Now it was January 30, the day for some of us to climb the holy mountain Mt. Sinai. This mountain is 2,285 meters above sea level. It is not as tall as Yu-Shan, the tallest mountain in Taiwan; however, it is totally made of rocks and stones, without any trees or green grass on it. And it is very steep. You could freely choose to climb it or to stay downhill. But Jerry and I decided to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a special way. We walked toward St. Catherine Monastery, at the foot of the mountain.

The mountain-climbing group, 16 or 17 of us, left from St. Catherine Monastery at 2:30 p.m. As it was recommended, each of us rode a camel on the first half of the uphill journey except Rev. Sam Cheng and his

wife, who were strong enough to cover the whole journey on foot. Well, it was my first time to ride on a camel. A camel that was almost too small and thin to carry me! (Jerry told me later that those Bedouin boys were smart – they gave me a smaller animal just because I looked thinner than others.) I was excited. And I was a little scared whenever my camel suddenly moved quickly or swayed to one end.

My "camel boy" was very young, just like a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grader at the elementary school. But he was now helping his family make money. Suddenly, he asked me if I had cookies with me. I gave him all the chocolates in my bag. From time to time he yelled at the camel walking beside him and hit it slightly on its hips or hind legs with a stick. The camel would speed up at once, and I had to try my best to ride well along. I had a mixed feeling all the way uphill.

Jerry was behind me, on his bigger camel. Holding a new Nikon in his hand, he tried to take pictures of me while my camel and I were making a turn along the narrow path uphill (see one of those photos on the next page!) I saw him adjusting the lens with the other hand. I told him not to fall. This was especially important because he is suffering from a bone problem called osteoporosis.

Then, something terrible happened to me. My right leg -- the lower part of my right leg was hit by something heavy! A huge camel with no one on its back was walking down in the opposite direction when it collided with my tiny camel, side against side. And my leg was just rammed in between. What a sharp pain! Is my leg broken? If it is, how can I . . . Oh, no! May the Lord save me from the time of trial!

Seeing drops of blood on my leg, I felt rather discouraged. But I managed to calm down. When we arrived at the final point of camel-riding, I thought to myself: Jerry and I are looking forward to celebrating our anni-





versary at the top of Mt. Sinai, and we are halfway up the mountain now! With Jerry's approval and support, I continued to walk up the steep slope, step by step. The second half of the uphill journey was much more difficult than the first half. Jerry and I kept encouraging each other; we reminded each other that our Lord is with us all the time.

Lord God (the Holy Trinity) indeed takes good care of each Christian according to their needs. Jerry said so, emphasizing that what we *want* is quite different from what we *need*. I would rather believe what he said. But I just wondered if those who were staying at the foot of the mountain would regret not coming along with us. For instance, Rev. Chen would have come with us to visit the top of Mt. Sinai if he had not been kept down there by his family; he was eager to come!

About 4:20 p.m. one of our sisters stopped climbing the mountain; she was obviously too weak to continue. A few minutes later, a second woman gave up, telling her husband that she would return and wait for him at St. Catherine Monastery. Yet Jerry

and I kept going, at a snail's pace! Then, as the stone steps became so steep and narrow, Jerry and I were unable to walk side by side. We had to move up very carefully, one after the other. And our chatting became a little bit inconvenient, or unusual.

"Do you think that in the animal world, the bigger would bully the smaller too?" I asked.

"What do you mean?"

"Why did that big camel collide with my little camel? Did he do it on purpose?"

"Oh, we don't really know," Jerry smiled. "Maybe it is their way to greet each other. Maybe the bigger is the father of the smaller!"

Jerry reasoned that it was sensible for a father camel to "encourage" his youngster by *tapping* him on the side. I didn't agree. He then had a new idea, saying that probably both of us were wrong. The two camels that we had talked about might not be father and son; they could be a very strong husband and a dainty little wife. "You didn't notice your camel was female, did you?" Jerry spoke with a funny facial expression. "Let me tell



you the truth. Camels do not hug each other like humans; instead, a good couple of camels (husband and wife) show their love by *kissing* each other with their sides!”

Sheer nonsense! But I liked it at the moment because I was rather tired from walking for hours. I knew Jerry was fond of camels. At least he respected them. The phrase “Luo Tuo” (meaning *camel*) had been the name of his class from 1970 to 1975, when he studied at Chiayi Junior Teachers College. Since then, he and his classmates, all male, have called themselves Luo Tuo Brothers. They meant to be “people who can shoulder heavy responsibilities.” In this respect, I would admit that Jerry has been a responsible man, though sometimes too imaginative to be practical.

Anyway I should thank God for granting me such a sweet family: my good husband and our good and interesting son! Our only son Tony is hardworking and responsible too, yet more humorous than his father. “I’ll start to use ‘Anthony’ as my English name from now on, because I’ve grown up,” proclaimed Tony one day. In fact, he is going to get married soon. Oh, dear Lord! May you constantly bless this sweet family, and also all other families!

Now my watch read almost 5:00 p.m. We still couldn’t see our destination, the top of Mt. Sinai; but we were not too far from it, I thought. Being high up on the steep slope, Jerry and I were very impressed by the grand, noble, and fantastic landscape. Light and shade in this natural “picture” became a sharp contrast: Hundreds of bare rock mountains were already darkened in gray, but tens of the high peaks were still shining in glowing colors. The setting sun was on the other side of Mt. Sinai, that’s why only the tops of mountains were in the orange sunshine. Jerry took pictures time and again. I reminded him that we had been told to get to the top no later than 5:10.

Suddenly, someone shouted cheerfully from above, “Hooray! Here we are!” Others echoed, “What a wonderful view! Alleluia! Alleluia!” Jerry and I stepped up our pace, unusually excited. Then, just in time, the very same words “Thanks be to God! With God’s help we’ve made it!” came out of both our mouths so spontaneously and in such a loud voice that both of us felt a little embarrassed.

As soon as all the 15 people (we did count all) arrived, Bishop Lai gathered us in front of the only building on the mountain-top, that is, Trinity Church. We stood closely in lines, facing the setting sun. Bishop Lai prayed for us. And we started to sing “Amazing Grace” and so on. We sang with tears in our eyes. I noticed Jerry was deeply moved too. He put his arm around my waist, and I leaned against his shoulder. We became quiet. The setting sun seemed to be right in front of us, or a little bit lower than where we stood. The colorful clouds were floating in the cool breeze. I heard no birds or insects singing; but amazingly, I heard a voice whispering to me: “The Lord God has constantly blessed us; he will abundantly bless our family, and many, many others!”

As you can see, we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a special way. On the holy mountain Mt. Sinai, our Love has been refined and our Covenant renewed!



Our group from Central Taiwan



## Annual Diocesan Convention: March 6 - 7, 2009

By Stephen Donoho, Good Shepherd English Congregation, Taipei

I'm a lifelong Episcopalian but had resided in Taiwan for only seven months, and attended services at Church of the Good Shepherd (aka *Mu-ai-t'ang*) in Taipei for not even three weeks, when Rev. Diane Wong asked if I would like to attend the Diocesan Convention. I was surprised that she would invite a relative newcomer to such an important occasion, but said I would be honored to attend; you can imagine how much more surprised I was the next week when she asked if I would go as a delegate. But before I jump too far ahead in my story, I ought to explain how I came to be in Taiwan in the first place, and how I ended up at Good Shepherd.

I'm a recent graduate of Davidson College in the USA; I majored in History and minored in Chinese, my specialization was in nineteenth-century Protestant missions and my senior thesis compared the experiences of the Church Missionary Society missionaries in West Africa and China. I plan to continue researching the history of Protestant mission in graduate school, but at the urging of my professors decided to spend a year abroad improving my Chinese before enrolling. I chose to study at Fo-kuang University in Ilan because I felt that a more rural environment would offer more opportunities to use Mandarin (and a more laid-back, traditional lifestyle) than Taipei. The major drawback of living in Ilan, which I contemplated at length before committing to Fo-kuang, was that it had no Episcopal Church, but I eventually decided to go nonetheless. During the summer and fall semesters, I attended various churches in Ilan, finally settling on a Presbyterian church near my home. The people were wonderfully friendly and welcoming, but the services were all in Taiwanese and the liturgy rather too austere for my liking, so when I returned to Taiwan after Christmas break, I got in touch with Rev. Wong and began attending Good Shep-

herd. I quickly realized how much I had missed the familiar incantations of the Book of Common Prayer, and have been back nearly every Sunday since.

About a month after attending my first service at Good Shepherd I found myself on the High-Speed Rail bound for Kaohsiung in the company of Rev. Wong and the warden of the English-congregation. I had never been to a Diocesan Convention before, and had no idea what to expect. When we finally arrived at St. Timothy's in Kaohsiung I was given a nametag and a packet of information, then quickly ushered into the nave of the church where a rainbow of vestments greeted my eyes. It was quite striking to see all the clergy draped in Lenten purple; I don't believe I saw any two of them wearing the same style of stole. I took a seat near the front of the church, right behind, as it happened, the delegation from Osaka. The service began shortly afterwards with Bishop Lai presiding, and before long I was waved forward to read the first lesson in English. The reading for the day was Isaiah, but the story of Babel would have been a more appropriate choice, as the second lesson was read in Taiwanese, the Gospel in Mandarin, and the Osaka delegation assisted with the Eucharist in their native Japanese. Between the language switches and the wide variety of vestments and banners, the service was a rich testament to the multi-cultural nature of the Episcopal Church of Taiwan, and the international breadth of the Anglican Communion.

Lunch was served following the service; I was reunited with the Good Shepherd English-congregation delegates and finally had the opportunity to meet the Chinese-congregation delegates. We dined on the ubiquitous *pien-tang*, or "lunch box," in the Great Hall of St. Timothy's and began the first session of the convention as soon as the



boxes were cleared. But before the official business began, the Bishop of Osaka delivered a short address via his interpreter and traded gifts with Bishop Lai. The Diocese of Taiwan received two beautiful calligraphy scrolls and every member present received a collapsible bag emblazoned with the logo of the Diocese of Osaka; Bishop Lai reciprocated with a stunning sculpture for the Diocese of Osaka.

The chief item of business for the first two sessions was the reporting of various committees on their activities for the past year, including a report from the President of St. John's University on their plans for future development. This accomplished, the meeting adjourned early, leaving me frankly at a loss for words. I have had the dubious privilege of attending conventions for many organizations in my life and until that day, I had never seen a session conclude early, and scarcely ever seen one conclude on time. One of my co-delegates observed that Asian cultures value the group over the individual, whereas Western cultures tend to invert this evaluation, hence Western meetings don't conclude until everyone who believes they have something worth saying has done so. I cannot speak to the long-term efficacy of either system, but as a delegate I much prefer the Taiwanese way of doing things.

By various means we all made our way to the hotel and, having some unexpected free time before dinner, I had the pleasure of strolling along the nearby river with Rev. Lily Chang and the Chinese-congregation delegates from Good Shepherd. Embarrassingly, due to the overlap between the English-congregation post-service fellowship and the start of the Chinese-congregation service, I had never been properly introduced to Rev. Chang and so I was honored when she asked me to assist with the Good Shepherd Chinese-congregation Youth Group. After returning to the hotel, we made our way to the dining room and after introductions to our dinner companions, dined on seemingly endless courses of local delicacies.

## Stephen Donoho



I could not get anyone to confirm that the menu was unique to Kaohsiung, or even necessarily to southern Taiwan, but there was much served to us that I, in nearly half a year of dining out every night, had never tasted in Ilan. Our dinner groups were deliberately mixed up so we would have the opportunity to meet new people, although it seemed that the only really "new" people present were the Japanese delegates and myself. The former were in a particular bind for while I could speak enough Mandarin to follow the dinner conversation (although, from the appearance of things I missed out on all the best jokes by not knowing Taiwanese) the Japanese had to rely on the assistance of the few clergy who spoke Japanese. I was, and remain, impressed that there were even Japanese speaking clergy present, in America the Japanese delegates would have been considerably worse off. When the last dish had been served, most of the delegates went to a meeting with the Japanese delegation, but I joined my fellow English-congregation delegates for coffee, reflection on the day's events, and preparation for the day to come.

The next day's session was held in a



room normally employed as a venue for wedding banquets, which was actually not inappropriate, as the day began with a Bible Study, lead by Rev. Akira Iwaki of the Japanese delegation, on Genesis, in which he discussed how the creation story demonstrates that people are not meant to live alone. Rev. Akira delivered his introductory comments in Mandarin (which he has not formally studied) and the remainder in Japanese; it was interesting to watch his otherwise very skilled translator struggle with the theological terminology, an experience I can thoroughly sympathize with! After the Bible study, the Japanese delegation departed on a tour to Tainan, and the remaining delegates commenced with reporting on the status of their various congregations. This accomplished, they began approving resolutions for the Church, some of which required extensive revision to meet with everyone's satisfaction, others of which were accepted as they were. This process was interrupted by lunch, which, while thankfully less overwhelming than the feast of the night before, still showcased some fine examples of Taiwanese cuisine. There was some more dis-

cussion after lunch and then, once more on time, the session ended, and everyone hastened to say their goodbyes and begin the return trip to their respective homes.

If I asked to summarize my first Diocesan Convention in a word, it would undoubtedly be: overwhelming. I was more exhausted after two days of sitting and listening than after many more physically intensive affairs that I can recall. It was also humbling in that I discovered my Mandarin skills, normally adequate for most purposes, are not at all up to the task of deciphering church and committee reports delivered in rapid succession. Fortunately my only real task at the Convention was to vote on the new diocesan leadership, in which matter I was instructed by the senior members of the Good Shepherd delegation. Thus I was free between sessions to take the opportunity to meet with other scholars of the Church, such as Mei-mei Lin and Rev. Samuel Liao. It was, in short, a learning experience of the best kind, and I look forward to more such experiences in the future.



**'A Rainbow of Vestments!': Taiwan and Osaka clergy at the Diocesan Convention**



**Our Visit to Taiwan Episcopal Church**  
**By Rev. Akira Peter Iwaki, Chairman of the Osaka Diocese**  
**Taiwan Exchange Committee**  
**Chairman of the Osaka Diocese Standing Committee**

First of all, I express my heartfelt thanks to you, all the brothers and sisters for the kindness and warm hospitality you showed to our delegation to the synod of Taiwan Episcopal Church. We returned home with the indescribable feeling of gratitude at heart. We really love Taiwan and Taiwan Episcopal Church!

We, as the companions of each other's church, have accomplished a variety of exchange programs so far, and this time we decided to write short articles for each other's newspaper. This is the first of such articles.

As you may know, Osaka is an industrial and commercial center of Western Japan, with a population of about 3 million (8 million in the wider metropolitan area). It is also a very old and historical city, which was once the capital of Japan more than 1500 years ago. Therefore, we have some places of historical interest, including Osaka Castle, the ruins of the old imperial office, and the Shitennoji Buddhist Temple. The commercial areas, such as Umeda, Namba and Shinsaibashi, are always crowded particularly with young people shopping, walking, singing and dancing sometimes.

The Osaka Diocese of NSKK (Japan's Anglican/Episcopal Church) is one of the oldest dioceses in Japan established in 1923, 64 years after the first missionary, Bishop C.M. Williams arrived in Japan. At present we have 22 churches, 5 schools, 4 social welfare institutions, and 4 kindergartens and nursery schools and 1 social mission center for the Korean residents in Japan.

Our visit this time was very successful and fruitful. Your Bishop, the Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai and our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Osamu Onishi signed the new contract for the companionship between our two dioceses, and Bishop Onishi was given an opportunity of delivering an opening speech at your synod. Besides, Bishop Lai allowed me to lead the

Bible study on the morning of the second day, which was a very exciting experience for me.

On the next Sunday, we were divided into 4 groups to visit and join the Sunday services (Holy Eucharist) at four different churches – St. John's Cathedral, Advent Church

(the photo shows Rev. Iwaki and his wife being presented with a gift by Rev. Lennon Chang at Advent Church), Good Shepherd Church and Trinity Church. Bishop Onishi preached at the Cathedral. That was a very exciting experience for us as the services and congregations were all blessed by God and inspired by the Holy Spirit. After the services we talked over lunch and had some programs with the church people, who were quite friendly and kind to us.

We feel sorry to have left the synod early for walking and sightseeing. We are afraid that would seem selfish to the Taiwanese friends. But we really enjoyed your culture and food, and learned a lot about your history and rich cultural traditions. We are particularly grateful to those friends, including Bishop's wife, who accompanied us and showed us great hospitality. Let me say thank you once again for everything you did for us during our stay. May God bless you and all the Taiwanese people!





**ST JAMES' KINDERGARTEN, TAICHUNG:**  
**VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE-ELLIS PRE-SCHOOL, BOSTON.**

**February 28 – March 13, 2009**

**By Catherine Lee**



What a welcome! We arrived early on Sunday morning after 24 hours of travel, and by the time we came out of church a few hours later, the snow had started to fall. All we could see were big fat white flakes pouring down on a ground that had already been covered with snow for the past 7 weeks. By the evening, the airport had shut down and by the time we woke up next morning, the world was totally white and the schools were all closed. A very picturesque welcome indeed!

I had gone to the USA to accompany Ms. Chang You-Mei, principal of St. James' Kindergarten, Taichung to visit our sister-kindergarten, Cambridge-Ellis Pre-School in Boston. It was my first ever visit to that part of the USA, and You-Mei's first ever visit to the whole country. We were treated like royalty from the moment we arrived! Beautiful hotels, delicious meals, cups and cups of coffee, rides here there and everywhere.

The director of Cambridge-Ellis, Jenifer Demko (see photo above of Jenfier and You-Mei outside Cambridge-Ellis main entrance: note the Chinese welcome!) welcomed us into her home for early Sunday morning showers and breakfast, and for a meal the

following evening, plus a farewell party on the last night. All her teachers went out of their way to take care of us. Some took us for meals, one took us to New York for 2 nights and showed us the sights, others took us to the museums, and all welcomed us into their classrooms at any time to wander around and to take photos. We ate and ate, talked and talked, and made plans for our ongoing teacher exchange to develop still further.

This year, we start our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of teacher exchange for the summer camps, now we hope to find a way to solve the visa problems in order to develop a one-year teacher exchange program as well. Every afternoon from 3:00-6:00 pm, their preschool children go off to learn Chinese, Spanish or English in fun-filled classes with songs, games, stories, art, cooking etc. In the future they want Portuguese, French and another Chinese class too, hence the desire for our teachers. Please pray for us, that a way can be found to resolve the visa situation. Actually none of their teachers are available to come to Taiwan for a year, so Jenifer has spent many hours advertising and interviewing local teachers, and now we are pleased to report that 2 teachers have agreed to come to St. James in June for a year.

Cambridge-Ellis is located right next to Harvard University, what a great location! In the future we also dream that we can arrange study tours for high school or university students from Taiwan for summer school programs offered by schools and colleges in Boston. We visited Christ Church for their morning service and through Jenifer's friends there, discovered they are willing to help us with arranging home stay programs, so that our students can have the chance to



stay in a Christian home. What a great witness that could be.

In our free time we explored the city of Boston. We walked everywhere, around and through the snow. Our free time was always very early morning, and off we would go soon after 6:00am exploring, across Boston Common, around the churches, following the Freedom Trail, past the oldest this and the oldest that, Boston has the oldest of everything! We tried the Metro system which has instructions in English, Spanish and Chinese. We went to a service and a Sacred Jazz Concert at Trinity Church; we went shopping, to the markets; we well and truly felt we had done Boston. The Boston Art Museum is full of famous stuff, just enough and not too much. Harvard University is beautiful always, but snow adds to the

beauty. By the last day we even saw some small daffodils, the only green things out, but then it started to snow again! What a great city, and such lovely people, and all so friendly. They insist on wearing T-shirts in the snow, the tough guy image!

And New York, yes we loved that city too. Everyone in fur coats with huge cups of Starbucks coffee rushing to work, while we ambled around. New Yorkers face reality like it really is. It was COLD, and unlike Boston, there was not a T-shirt in sight. In fact it was the coldest March 3<sup>rd</sup> ever recorded in the history of New York. Gabriel, the teacher in St. James' who replaced me in the Raccoon class, is from New York and arranged for us to stay in a really good hotel in Manhattan, where his cousin works. It was so cheap, and had free breakfast, and we



#### In St. George's School Chapel

from left to right: Helen-Marie (Art Teacher at Cambridge-Ellis), Catherine Lee, You-Mei Chang (Principal of St James' Kindergarten), Rev. Peter D'Alesandre, Chief Caring Hands, Mr. Lyn Hovey, Jenifer Demko (Director of Cambridge-Ellis Preschool)



would walk everywhere. We took the cousin some famous Taiwan pineapple cake which he shared with his co-workers, including the girl on the front desk who turned out to come from Taipei. She loved that pineapple cake! We went up the Empire State Building, to see Ground Zero, and other famous sights. In the evening, we even went to a Broadway show courtesy of Cambridge-Ellis, an all singing and dancing extravaganza!

We also had a great reunion with Lyn Hovey and his wife, Chief Caring Hands (see photo on preceding page). Lyn is the stained glass artist who did the stunning stained glass in Advent Church, Tam-sui. He is presently doing a lot of beautiful stained glass for St George's Episcopal High School in Newport, Rhode Island and that is where we met. It's only about an hour and a half drive from Boston. The school dining room is like something out of Harry Potter, full of dragons and with huge flags. We also invited Rev Peter D'Alesandre, former English chaplain at St. James' to come too, and we had a great time introducing old friends to new ones, all with a Taiwan connection.

Actually the Taiwan connection with St. George's School goes back many more years than we ever imagined. We found out later that the first Head of St. George's School, the Rev. Bill Buell, had come to Taiwan after his retirement, and started up English Bible classes at Tung-Hai University, Taichung. One of his students was John Chien, later Bishop of Taiwan, who became a Christian through those Bible classes, and was baptized by Rev. Bill Buell in St. James' Church on Christmas Eve 1968. It's a small world!

We had a meal that evening in the restaurant in Newport where Jenifer had first met her husband many years before. So romantic! The next day off we went for a guided tour of Lyn Hovey's studio in Boston, by the man himself. It was fascinating to see all the process from design to finish. Our friends from Cambridge-Ellis came too, and now everyone is friends with each other. Great!

And then on the way home we flew via Dallas to visit Rev Charles Chen and his wife, MaryJo, Rector Emeritus of St. James' and voluntary supervisor of the St. James' Kindergarten. As they do every year for a few

months during spring and early summer, they were staying with their daughter and her family, and we joined them for a few wonderful days. We were welcomed with outstretched arms, their first Taiwan visitors from outside the family. We walked and talked



and visited their friends and also visited what they said was virtually the only tourist attraction in Dallas, the place where President Kennedy was assassinated. As the Kennedy's are closely associated with Boston and with Newport, Rhode Island, it felt rather like a Kennedy tour of all their old haunts! By now our suitcases were bulging to breaking point and we struggled home to Taiwan. Coming home takes much longer than going, and L.A. to Taipei is a very long 15 hour flight, whereas going only takes 11 hours. We also lost the whole of Thursday on the way home, whereas on our outward journey we had arrived before we had even started according to the times and dates, and February 28 seemed to go on and on forever. Now we are well and truly home and ever grateful to Cambridge-Ellis for their gracious and overwhelming hospitality and welcome. Pleased pray for this partnership as we seek to make all our ideas happen!



## ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

*Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師*

*Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峯牧師*

### DIOCESE OF CENTRAL PHILIPPINES NEWS:

On February 22, 2009, Holy Carpenter Church, Villa Labrador, Nueva Ecija, central Philippines, was dedicated and consecrated by Bishop Dixie Taclobao. This is the eighth church in the Diocese of Central Philippines whose construction was paid for with money raised by St. James' Church. Actually the money was a single donation given by a married couple in St. James' Church. The man used to be a carpenter, and when Bishop Dixie gave us the chance to choose a name for the new church, it was us who suggested 'Holy Carpenter Church' in honor of the donor. Although you cannot see its true beauty in these photos, it is actually bright turquoise blue on the outside



walls, and golden yellow on the inside walls.

As we write, our ninth church, being built in the mountains of the island of Palawan, is just starting construction.



### CHURCH NEWS:

On February 14, Valentines Day, a special outing was held for members and friends of Leading Star Church, Taiping. We went up the mountains to Shin-Shr for lunch and fellowship. 12 people attended.

For the first time for many years, the St. James' Church Vestry held an overnight retreat from March 27-28 in Puli, Nantou. 14 people attended, and had a time of prayer, sharing, teaching and discussions together, finishing on Saturday afternoon with a trip to

the Puli Paper Factory. Everyone is keen to repeat the experience in the future!

Just before Easter, some changes were made in the church, and a new overhead screen was installed. There is already a screen above the altar, but to use it means it comes down covering the big church cross. Now there is also one on the right hand wall. All the services can now use PowerPoint throughout the service, which is much more convenient. This was especially appreciated by the congregation on Easter Eve, when the congregation were holding candles, and it



## Easter Eve Baptisms at St. James' Church



would have been difficult to hold service books as well!

On Good Friday evening, Rev. Peter Chen was at St. James' for a class on how to use incense. 4 people including Rev. Philip Lin and seminarian Mr. Philip Her, had a 2 hour class on using incense on worship. We used the incense on Easter Eve.

On Easter Eve, a total of 11 people were baptized, praise God! 3 of these people come from families where they are the last member of the family to be baptized.

We particularly thank God for the baptism of Mr. Lai Hong-Yi, wife of Mrs. Yang Hwei-Ru, a teacher in St. James' Kindergarten for almost 20 years. She herself was baptized many years ago, followed by their 2 daughters who disobeyed their father and went forward for baptism a few years ago, aged about 8 and 10! Now Mr. Lai has been

moved to tears by the Holy Spirit and through the witness of the church and house group, been baptized.

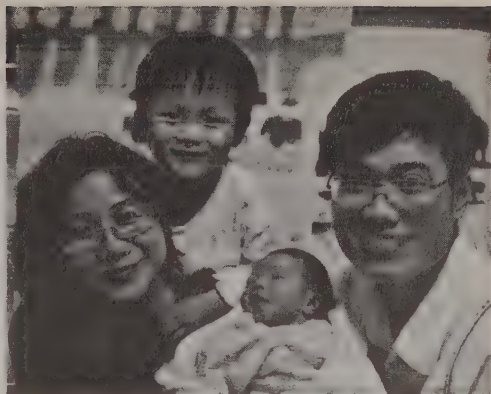
We also thank God for the baptism of Ms. Wen Miao-Shia, for many years the church administrator, and now the cashier in St James' Kindergarten and teacher in the afternoon classes for elementary school children. 3 of the families baptized are present or former kindergarten families, and we are so pleased that the witness of the kindergarten is bearing fruit. 2 of those baptized are from the English congregation, both are Taiwan people who have been living overseas, and attending churches there.

On Easter Day we held a combined service with the St. James' Chinese and English congregations, and the Church of the Leading Star in Taiping. 106 people attended. This was followed by an egg-hunt and a tea party fellowship when each of the newly



baptized people shared their testimonies with the church members.

The Rev. Philip Lin and his wife Linda, shown in the photo right, are proud parents of a new baby son, their second child - named Lin Yung-Mu. The baby was born on Maundy Thursday morning, just as all the clergy were arriving at St. James' for their annual Renewal of Vows service with Bishop Lai. Congratulations to the Lin family!



## **ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG**

*Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師*

Holy Week at St. Timothy's Church began with a special Palm Sunday service which left many people very moved and some in tears. 3 special choruses and hymns on the theme of Peter's denial of Jesus were sung.

On Maundy Thursday there was foot-washing which this year was much more natural and many people felt comfortable enough to wash each other's feet.

On Easter Eve, over 100 people came to the service. Originally there were 5 people scheduled to be baptized, but then there were 2 more at the last minute. One of these was a man whose wife was to be baptized. The wife had been ill, and he had watched as the Christian brothers and sisters from St. Timothy's had taken such good care of her. He was suddenly moved by the Holy Spirit to ask for baptism along with his wife, so he finally had his bap-

tism preparation class one hour before the actual baptism! Since then, his wife reports a big positive change in her husband.

The other sudden decision was a man who had attended the baptism classes but hadn't wanted to be baptized. His wife and one child were already baptized, and his elder daughter was to be baptized on Easter Eve. Suddenly he was moved to ask to be baptized too, so finally 7 people were baptized!



**Family Service at St. Timothy's Church**



## **ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG**

*Mrs. Grace Yang Li-Shiang 楊麗香傳道*

On February 24, a coach load of local people living around Advent Church visited St. Mark's Church. A newly-baptized lady at Advent Church, whose family owns a coach and who runs coach tours, organized a week-end trip for local people through southern Taiwan. She wanted the group to hear the gospel in the Taiwanese language, and so arranged that they would visit St. Mark's where Mrs. Grace Yang shared with them her testimony and the gospel. Most of the visitors were elderly and they love to travel, so we hope that other opportunities for sharing the gospel can be found in the future!

An outing to Kenting on Friday February 13, and another to the countryside on Friday March 20 were opportunities for fellowship. 3 churches took part, St. Mark's, St. Timothy's and All Saints.

The weekend children's activities at St. Mark's started a new semester on March 21, with 20 children each Saturday for Chinese classes and clay-modeling classes along with Bible teaching and sharing of the gospel.

On Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve, St. Mark's church members went along to St. Timothy's for the services there. On Easter Day a service was held at St. Marks with retired priest Rev. Hu, celebrating the Eucharist. 17 people attended the service.

On April 27, Mrs. Grace Yang retires from full-time service as an evangelist and will return to live at her home in Taichung. She also plans to visit her 3 children in the USA and Canada, as well as 2 grandchildren. We wish her a healthy and happy retirement!

Bishop David Lai has appointed Mr. James Su Guo-Chin, introduced in a previous Friendship magazine, as the new evangelist at St. Mark's, as from May 1, 2009. He has been at Good Shepherd Church this past year, under training with Rev. Lily Chang. His father-in-law is retired priest, Rev. Richard Ou. Welcome to St. Mark's!

## **SOUTHERN CLERGY ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY**

This semester, the southern clergy have expanded our monthly English Bible studies to include a celebration of the Eucharist in English. The Bible study and Eucharist on Monday April 20 was also a farewell to Mrs. Grace Yang as she retired. On this occasion, the service was held at St. Paul's Church, and it was Rev. June Chou's first ever English Eucharist, as well as her first time to read the gospel in English (see photo on opposite page). The photo shows the farewell lunch in honor of Mrs. Grace Yang.



## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.

*Rev. June Chou Yun-Guang 周韜光牧師*

St. Paul's Church are thrilled that one of our church members has been accepted by the Diocesan Commission on Ministry to go to seminary. Mr. Chi Shia-Yuen is 34 years old, and was one of Rev. June Chou's Sunday School members for many years, when she was the Sunday School teacher at St. Paul's many years ago. Rev. June Chou is particularly honored! He left St. Paul's Church for many years, but was brought back through the ministry of Rev. Richard Lee, formerly assistant priest at St. Paul's, now at Trinity Church, Keelung. Mr. Chi is married with a baby son, born in January 2009. He comes from a Christian family, and his grandparents were also church members of St. Paul's. He works for the organization 'Evangelism Explosion' in Taiwan. Please pray for him and his family as they start on this new exciting ministry.

Please also pray for Mr. Lee Sheng-Hong, also a church member at St. Paul's. He also feels called to serve as a priest in the Episcopal Church, but is only 24 years old and so may need a few more years to mature still further. He is also a former Sunday School student of Rev. June Chou, and is a colleague of Mr. Chi at Evangelism Explosion.

A new program started at St. Paul's Church in February. After the Sunday services, the congregation always have lunch together, and now they also have started to read the Bible together and have Sunday afternoon fellowship. At present they are reading through the gospel of Matthew, one chapter a week.



We request your special prayers for one of our young children. Her name is Chang En-Tsz. Her mother brought her father to the church and they were a lovely Christian couple, married in St. Paul's Church. But they waited many years for a child. Through special prayer, they were finally able to conceive and little En-Tsz was born when her mother was 42. Now the little girl is 6 years old. Unfortunately her mother died of cancer at the end of January. As she neared her death, she

handed the cross that she had held throughout her illness to her husband and exhorted him never to leave God. Amazingly that little girl has blossomed and changed in the last few months since her mother's death. She used to be so shy, now she is polite and outgoing. The family used to always be late for services, often turning up during the last hymn, now the father and En-Tsz are always on time, and the little girl who used to run around everywhere, now sits and listens throughout Sunday School. She used to take 2 hours to eat a few mouthfuls of lunch, now she eats normally. She started as a kindergarten student at St. Paul's after her mother's death, and she has matured under the loving care of the teachers and the watchful caring eye of Rev. June Chou. Her father often has to travel to Mainland China for work and so when he is away, one of the church members takes care of En-Tsz and welcomes her into her own family like her own daughter. Praise God!



## **GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN**

*Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師*

Grace Church has a new English class for the community, meeting on Friday evenings. And it is very cheap, only NT\$ 200 per month! The teacher is a retired colonel from the Taiwan army who traveled extensively during his military service. 16 people attend the classes, of which 7 are church members, and others are from the local community. Already one of the students, a local lady who runs a small restaurant selling dumplings nearby, has started to come to church on Sundays too.



On Palm Sunday, Bishop David Lai attended the service, and 8 of the Grace Church Kindergarten teachers formed a choir and sang during the service.

On Maundy Thursday a service and foot-washing ceremony was held, for the first time.

A group from Grace Church has been busily

practicing the mandolin for many weeks, and a concert was held on April 18 in Tainan Theological College at which they performed. A total of about 70 people took part on the concert, and it was attended by over 300 people.

The new monthly home fellowship services were honored to be invited to the home of Rev Samuel Liao on April 19. 23 people attended, including Rev. Richard Ou, retired priest. See photo above.

## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN**

*Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師*

Our first course of adult Sunday School classes finished on March 22, the subject was 'The History of Israel'. The following Sunday we started the second course on the subject of 'The Place of Liturgy'. 12-15 people attend each week, and once a month we have a Sunday lunch together following the classes.

On Easter Eve, we had 2 choirs singing at our Easter Eve Vigil, one was the Youth Fellowship who sang 2 songs, and the other was

the Adult Fellowship who sang one song. About 30 people came altogether.

The children's weekend activities are being launched on April 25 with a group of adult leaders coming from St. Timothy's Church to help run the first session. Each week, starting May 2, we plan to hold the activities from 3:00-4:30 pm, to be run by seminarian Mr. Her Ray-En and church members.

We are also planning a combined service

with St. Mark's Church on Mothers' Day. All the church members from All Saints will travel to St. Mark's for the service, followed by lunch and an outing.

There are 2 Trinity Hall classes this semester. On Tuesday evenings, Rev. Samuel Liao leads a course on Chinese Christianity

at the Diocesan office. On Thursday evenings, the Rev. David Chi leads a course on Anglicanism, also in the Diocesan office, but this course is also broadcast by video conference to All Saints Church, where 5 people attend the class, from all over the southern churches.

## **ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI**

*Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師*

On Tuesday February 24, St Matthias Day, we had a family worship and Holy Eucharist at Gou-Bei mission, home of retired Bishop John Chien (see photo below). We invited all the old church members of Gou-Bei and church members from St. Peter's Church. There were 20 of us altogether, and we enjoyed a nice lunch of beef noodles prepared by Grace, Bishop Chien's wife. In discussion with Bishop Chien, we have decided to help Gou-Bei mission by going there on major feast days.

On April 1, Sindy, the wife of Rev. Keith Lee, gave birth to a baby daughter, Lee Shing-Yung, their second child. Congratulations to them and thanks be to God!

On April 11, the weekend children's activities started for this semester with 30 children attending every Saturday for Bible classes, singing and activities.

southern clergy attended, and Rev. Peter Chen and Rev. Elizabeth Wei represented the Diocese. Praise God that everything went very smoothly.

On Easter Day, 31 of us went on a church outing and outside worship in the 'Gu-Keng Coffee Garden'. After the service we had a memorial sharing to remember Miss An-Veng Loh, who died last year. Those church members who could remember her were in-



On the morning of Easter Eve, the burial was held of Bishop Chien's mother at Gou-Bei mission. About 100 people attended the service, which was led by the Rev. Keith Lee. The preacher was Rev Jason Ke. All the

invited to share about her life and ministry. She was very important in the life of St Peter's and we give thanks for her life and service.



## ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

*Mr. Joseph Wu 吳明龍會吏*

Evangelist Timothy Chen left St. Luke's Church in February 2009. Just before he left, Bishop Lai attended the service at St. Luke's and met with the Bishop's committee (See photo). Timothy Chen is now at St. John's Cathedral serving as their evangelist.



In March Deacon Joseph Wu was assigned by Bishop Lai to St. Luke's. He comes on

Saturdays and Sundays. Rev. David Chi and Rev. Enoch Lee come to St. Luke's once a month to celebrate the Eucharist, and on the other Sundays, Joseph Wu serves communion using pre-consecrated bread. He has also changed the weekly prayer meeting to Saturday evenings, and 5 people attend. The Sunday service is usually attended by 10-15 people.

## TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

*Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師*

The course of Evangelism Training, reported in the previous Friendship Magazine, has now finished and we are pleased to report that 7 adults and 11 teenagers completed the course. A total of 85 people accepted Christ during the course of the evangelistic outreach, and now all are being invited to come to the church to study the Bible, attend services and get involved in the church fellowship. Already some have started to attend services and activities. Thank God that this has been a great



way to let church members mature in their faith and to learn how to reach out to others

to share the gospel. Bishop Lai came on the final Sunday for a presentation of certificates to those who had completed the course, shown in the photo.

On Easter Eve we had 2 people baptized, and on Easter Day we had a combined outing with St. Stephen's Mission to a farm near Wu-Lai up in the mountains. 100 people attended and after the service we had a BBQ. It was a really good service and many non-Christians also came.

## ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION, KEELUNG

*Mrs. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華傳道*

Congratulations to Evangelist Mrs. Julia Lin, on the wedding of her eldest son on April 18 in St. John's Cathedral! We wish the happy couple many blessings on their new life together.

At St. Stephen's Mission, the first year of the government-sponsored food program is now complete and the second year has begun. 15 children attend daily to eat dinner and have activities, the limit being 15 due to the space available.

On February 9, the Lantern Festival, the whole community of Da Ching Da Cheng was invited by the local community leaders to attend a celebration. Over 300 people attended. We took all our leaders and their families and had a great time celebrating and making contacts with the local people.

On March 31, we started our Alpha Course every Saturday morning from 10:00—11:30 am in the mission. This runs at the same time as the children's weekend activities

(see photo below). All the 9-10 people who attend the Alpha Course also bring their children along to attend the children's activities. 34 children attend each week. After the Alpha course at lunchtime, everyone gathers to make dumplings and to eat together.

We request special prayer for one of our families at the mission. The parents are divorced and the 3 children live with their father. However he is violent and often beats the children. The children have been in foster care for the last 3 months but have now returned home to their father. We pray that God will protect these vulnerable children from harm.

Finally we ask for your prayers for the future of St. Stephen's Mission and its location. We would like to buy a house or place where we can have worship and all the outreach activities, and so we are looking around for a suitable place at a suitable price. May Almighty God lead us in the right direction!





## GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

*Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Diane Wong*

We have a wonderful story to share from Good Shepherd Church and Kindergarten!

Yu Yung-Ping is a 6 year old girl in Good Shepherd Kindergarten (see photos). Her parents were divorced when she was very young, and she lives with her mother, aunt, grandmother and uncle. In her home, her grandmother has a temple, and her grandmother is a 'Ji-Tong', someone who communicates with the evil spirits and is often seen near the front of temple processions walking along beating themselves until the blood flows, in sacrifice



to the evil spirits, and as a way for them to enter the body.



Last year on a kindergarten family outing, the Rev. Lily Chang was invited by the kin-

dergarten to lead the assembled children and their families in a prayer. As she prayed, the girl's aunt was moved to tears. This news spread around the kindergarten and a Christian family heard the news. At Christmas the kindergarten children went to their shop to share the good news. They were very caring towards the girl's family.

The aunt started to come to church every week and started to bring little Yung-Ping and her mother too. The aunt loved coming to church! In November, the little girl announced she wanted to be baptized. Her

mother was very surprised! In her home is a temple, and yet this little girl had decided on her own that she wanted to be a Christian. The mother talked to Linda, principal of the kindergarten about baptism, and Linda suggested the mother accompany the little girl to visit Rev. Lily Chang. Yung-Ping however was quite determined, she would go alone to visit Lily!

As a result, the girl's aunt also decided she wanted to be baptized, and so she started to attend baptism classes. Aunt's friend and mother's colleague came too 'just to listen', so they said. They all came willingly but not without much spiritual opposition and attempts by the powers of darkness to dissuade them. They suffered sickness and depression, but amazingly on January 11, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, Yung-Ping, her aunt, aunt's friend and mother's colleague were all baptized at Good Shepherd Church. In view of grandparent's views, mother didn't dare take such a radical step so quickly and so she delayed baptism for a while. However, praise God, on Easter Eve, the mother was baptized too (see photo below).

All except the little girl were then confirmed on Sunday April 19 by Bishop Lai. Thanks be to God for this family. Please pray for the grandmother and uncle, and for the family's witness to them.



## Good Shepherd English congregation: Rev. Diane Wong

At one of the local community events, I had the opportunity to meet and get to know Mark Wilke, a bird expert from South Africa. I learned from Mark that bird migration actually takes place in Taiwan twice a year. Around the end of October, birds will migrate south, and then come back up north around the end of March. As Mark shared with me the amazing sight of hundreds and even thousands of birds flying south and north, there was much excitement in his voice.

Not wanting to miss this natural phenomenon, and thinking this could be a wonderful fellowship opportunity, I indicated to Mark that some of the members of the congregation would probably like to see this amazing sight, and requested that he be our guide in March when the buzzards flew over the middle of Taiwan as they migrated north from the Philippines.

Mark cautioned us that bird migration is very much dependent on weather. Under the right weather conditions, we can see thousands of buzzards; but if it is windy or rainy we may see just a few or none. There is no control over nature. We can only hope, wait, see, and be there. Not very different from prayer, I thought.

On the appointed Saturday in March, eight of us made the trip down south to the middle of Taiwan, to meet up with Mark; then continued onto the viewing spot in BaQua Shan, and to join with the researchers stationed there. A group of researchers in Taiwan have been studying and researching the grey faced buzzards (see photo) for years. During

each migration season, they set up stations at different spots to take pictures of the buzzards, take count of the buzzards that fly over the migration path, and study how the changing of the environment affects the population of buzzards and their migration pattern. Led by a university professor, several researchers set up a station at BaQua Shan every year. When we arrived on that

particular Saturday, they warmly welcomed us, the neophytes.

They and Mark are passionate and care much about birds and nature; we could tell from the amount of time they devote to studying and observing these crea-

tures in the field, from their patience and persistence in waiting; and their delight in sharing their vast knowledge in what they know and love. Stationing at the mountains every year is like a pilgrimage to them. They look forward to the seasons, and the hours and days of not seeing one buzzard does not discourage them. They know their patience will eventually be rewarded, what they will see is well worth the wait; and they have seen the treasure.

We spent the entire afternoon waiting for the buzzards to return, and we did see about a dozen of them. Every time the researchers saw one, they were excited and their excitement was infectious. Yes bird watching reminds me of prayer and the discipline of prayer, but more importantly I understand a little bit more how patient and passionate God is with us.





## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

*Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正*

For the past five years, we have held a service for the renewal of marriage vows each year. On March 21 there was such a service for four married couples to renew their marriage vows and one newly married couple to receive a blessing. Amazingly, there was one couple who have been married for 60 years already. There were around 40 guests who attended that service and everyone who attended was deeply touched and abundantly blessed.

On Easter Day after the Holy Eucharist Service and confirmation, which was celebrated by Bishop David Lai, there was an outing held for the whole church to Ta-Shue resort in Taoyuan County. There were 131 people altogether, including the congregation and their families and friends. The

weather was so nice. We had a lunch banquet, different activities for each group and evening prayer altogether.

From January 11, the church started a program of reading the Bible everyday through the year. Those who join the program are encouraged to read 5 chapters every day, including 3 chapters from the Old Testament and 2 chapters from the New Testament.

Furthermore, in order to fulfill the vision of St. John's Cathedral, that is to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Com-

mission, we have started to run a Family Opening Group. For the first stage, from January 4 to March 29, the church ran the Beta Advanced Course in order to equip believers who were willing to be involved in the ministry and to reach the vision. There were 25 people attended the course and 22 finished the training at last.

Moreover, for the second stage, the Cathedral has started a Discipleship Course for those who have finished the Beta course. There were 18 people attending the course which was designed for training disciples



especially for evangelization. Now, at the same time, the course members have started to run several Home Opening Groups every week since late April. Please pray for them.

Also, the Cathedral will commence a new Alpha Course on April 22, which we have run successfully 8 times for the past 4 years. This time there are 30 people attending and 23 helpers serving in this course.

## ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

St. John's University is presently operating around a large construction site which fills the whole central part of the campus. As this is all fenced off, people must walk around 3 sides of a square to get from one side of the campus to the other. Some have taken to riding bikes around the campus and others are getting used to the long walk and the extra time it takes! At the time of writing (end of April) the old buildings have been demolished, and the foundations of the new ones are going in. Building progress is very dependent on the weather, and we hope and pray that this year's typhoon season will not cause too many delays.

### CHAPLAINCY

The chaplaincy team have a busy evening schedule with students as follows:

Monday: 5:00-6:00 pm Bible study groups with students, followed by 6:00-8:00 pm pastoral visiting of the students in their dormitories room by room. The male members of the chaplaincy staff visit the boys' dormitories and the female staff visit the girls' dormitories.

Tuesday: 5:00-6:00 pm Bible study groups with students, followed by 6:00-8:00 pm Christian Music Classes with students, where the students learn piano, drums, guitar and singing, and learn how to lead praise and worship.

Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 pm Bible study groups with students followed by 6:30-8:00 pm whole group Bible study.

Thursday: 12:00-1:00 pm Prayer Meeting. 6:00 pm whole chaplaincy fellowship evening, starting with a meal together, followed by praise and worship, then the ALPHA course, followed by small discussion groups.

At the weekends are occasional weekends away or social activities. Students who live



locally or who live in the school dormitories are encouraged to come to Advent Church for the Sunday service. All the students who attend the Bible study groups also have a 1:1 Bible study with one of the chaplaincy staff (2 of whom are shown here in the photo above), during the week.

The global economic recession has had a very detrimental effect on our students. This semester a large number have not returned from the Chinese New Year break to register for classes, taking a semester (we hope only one semester) out from study in order to work to save money. A total of 71 day students and 267 evening / weekend students have not reappeared this semester. Out of a total of about 7000 students, this represents a considerable proportion, and can have serious knock-on implications if the recession continues.

In response to the severity of the economic downturn, the Chaplaincy has set up a special Fund to help students who are struggling to make ends meet. This is especially to help students who do not have enough money to buy food to eat. Virtually all the donations have come from teachers and staff, and so far a grand total of NT\$ 1,017,300 has been reached. This semester, Chaplin Rev. Lennon Chang has calculated that the chaplaincy will give out 9000 meal



coupons for lunch-boxes, each worth NT\$ 50, a total of NT\$ 450,000. The rest of the money will be kept until next semester. The meal coupons can be used at the university canteen and exchanged for a lunchbox. Each student can receive 2 tickets a day. Students in need must apply through their form tutor and must have their approval. So far applications from 249 students have been received for this semester.

To encourage the students to get more sleep at night, a new regulation will come into force at St. John's University as from September 2009. All dormitories on campus, previously on 24 hour internet access, will have the internet connection switched off between 1:00-5:00 am each night, Sundays to Thursdays.

And finally the Chaplaincy distributed a total of 600 decorated hard-boiled eggs on Easter Monday to all the teachers and administrative staff at the university. Each of-

fice was visited individually, to bring Easter greetings to everyone!



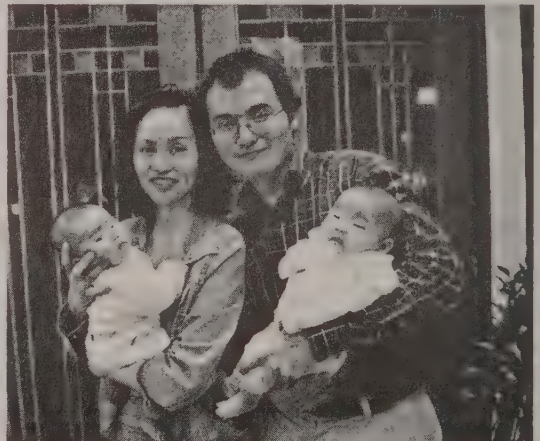
**Confirmation of student Wu Su-Juan by Bishop Lai, January 18, 2009**

## **ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI**

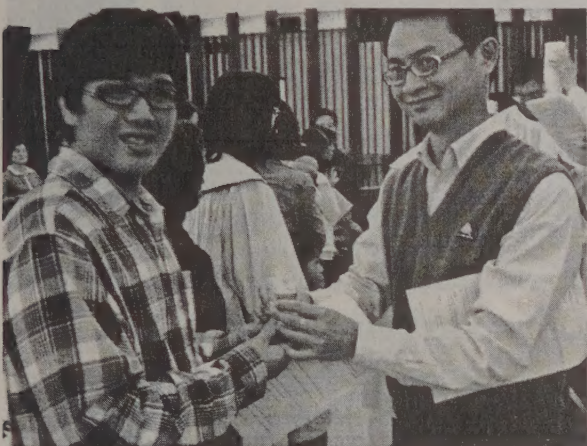
*Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rong 張員榮牧師*

Advent Church is praying hard for our future outreach up on the north coast in a village called Lao-Mei. This village is right on the sea and at its center is a large Taoist Temple. There are no known Christians in Lao-Mei, and near the village school is a building that was originally a Roman Catholic Church, but it has been closed for many years after the last Roman Catholic moved away from the village. Now in cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church we are hoping to be able to use that building to start some children's activities in the village. We plan to start this coming summer vacation with a 2 day children's summer camp, and see where we go from there. Hopefully we can start weekend children's activities next semester. It is a very exciting development, and we would very much appreciate your prayers.

On Easter Eve, a total of 7 people were baptized. Two of these were the 3-month old twin daughters of our Junior Warden, Mr. Eric Chou Nien-Tzu (shown in the photo below). It was the first time they had been out of the house since they were born!



We still have many students who would like to be baptized but their parents do not agree. One of them, Mr. Pang Shun, was baptized on Easter Eve. In the photo below, he is shown receiving the baptismal candle from Chaplaincy assistant Mr. Daniel Chen. He refused to tell his parents because he knew they would oppose him, and as he is over the age of 20, the legal age of adulthood in Taiwan, he could make his own decision.



This semester the number of house groups at Advent Church has increased by 3. One of these is in a neighboring village, Shing-Ren, and led by Rev. Lennon Chang. One is for people of San-Zhe, the next town north of here, led by our senior warden, Ms. Shu, and the third is a Taiwanese-speaking group for local people who mostly live in one street in a nearby village, Tun-Shan.

At the annual university celebrations on April 25, Rev. Lennon Chang shared with the congregation about our vision to build a church center on land at the back of Advent Church. We are praying that the money would be forthcoming, and that it could be donated by church members, alumni and university staff, rather than from the university itself. Lennon's vision is for 900 people each to donate NT\$ 20,000. If all goes smoothly, we hope to start construction later this year. We really appreciate your prayers for this project and for the fund-raising involved.

The young people's summer mission program this year will start at the end of June with training here at Advent Church. This is for all students and young people in the diocese. After training here, and the first camp, here at Advent Church, the young people will go off in groups around the diocese to run the summer camps. One group will be going to West Malaysia at the end of July with Rev. Lennon Chang on a mission there in cooperation with the Diocese of West Malaysia. This is a very exciting development and we really need your prayers!



**St. John's University students celebrate Easter at Advent Church**



## VISIT TO TAIWAN

By Mr. Warren Parker, retired CMS-NZ missionary in Tanzania

'I worked for the New Zealand Church Missionary Society for 23 years as a teacher and then Principal of Canon Andrea Mwaka School in Dodoma, Tanzania, East Africa. The school was established by the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika. For 3 of those years, Catherine Lee (now CMS mission partner in Taiwan) was also on the staff of our school.

As a citizen of New Zealand it was very easy for me to enter Taiwan. My first impressions were:

People, people and more people  
Traffic, traffic and more traffic  
Food, food and more food!

New Zealand is a nation of 267,000 sq. km, 4.2 million people and 50 million sheep. Taiwan however is only 36,000 sq. km, but with 23 million people and very few sheep!

As my visit progressed, I quickly experienced so much more. The impressive High-Speed Rail service which I traveled on from Taichung to Taipei, the extremely clean and efficient Taipei MRT subway system, the excellent exhibitions at the National Palace Museum and the Museum of Archaeology at Bali, the most informative Oyster Museum and Tree House in Tainan, and the lovely Art Museum in Taichung. I was most impressed by visits to the College of Performing Arts where I enjoyed performances of circus acrobats and Beijing Opera, and the Taipei Concert Hall for a symphony concert of music by Bach and Bruckner. I also spent several days seeing the historic cities of Tamsui and Tainan. One of the highlights was visiting a delightful Christian sculptor and friend of Bishop Lai, Mr. Chang Jing, in Dou-Nan, Yun-Lin County.



With Bishop Lai visiting sculptor, Mr. Chang Jing

I knew nothing of the Anglican church in Taiwan until Catherine Lee came here. It was most interesting to join in the worship and experience the warm hospitality and welcome of church members and clergy, to learn about their ministry and outreach, to talk to Rev. Samuel Liao, who studied for a year in New Zealand, to learn about the mission of St. James' Church to the Philippines, the kindergartens, and St. John's University. I was privileged to learn from Bishop Lai as he shared some of his vision for the Episcopal Church in Taiwan.

I want to thank everyone who made my visit to Taiwan such an unforgettable experience especially the clergy and church members in Good Shepherd Church, Advent Church, St. John's Cathedral, St. James' Church and Grace Church.'

Mr. Warren Parker visited Taiwan together with Mrs. Winsome Bylos, formerly Assistant Principal of Canon Andrea Mwaka School in Dodoma, Tanzania. Winsome went to Africa at the age of 55, and served there for 7 years. Now retired, she writes as follows:



## VISIT TO TAIWAN

By Mrs. Winsome Bylos, retired CMS-Australia missionary in Tanzania

'To My New Friends in Taiwan,

Thank you all so much for your kindness and welcome when I came to visit Catherine. She was with me as a missionary teacher in Dodoma, Tanzania, and I hadn't seen her for about 10 years.

Thank you Bishop Lai for taking us with you on your Diocesan visit to Tainan and Taichung. We had many stops on the way, lunch at your brother's home, and a visit to your friend, Mr. Chang Jing, a Christian sculptor who overwhelmed us with his generosity and gifts.

We visited some churches and kindergartens, at Good Shepherd, Grace Church and St. James' and Advent Church. Each had a new experience and a glimpse of your culture. At Good Shepherd, we visited a group of people who just liked singing, members of the group of seniors learning to sing choruses, part of the outreach of the church. They sang a song of welcome and blessing for us, then we prayed and shared with them. What a warm welcome they gave us!

At Grace Church in Tainan we attended the Palm Sunday service followed by a mandolin concert. The kindergarten teachers also sang in the service, they come occasionally and we hope that one day they will become Christians and be baptized.

At St. James' Church in Taichung, all the children in the kindergarten welcomed us and we watched the morning assembly with singing and dancing. There were 4 songs—in Chinese, Taiwanese, English and a Christian song. Later we saw a teacher presenting the Palm Sunday story with illustrations and English. Across the street, we visited the Art Museum and saw many pleasant and exciting works by Taiwanese artists. I always like to buy a memento of where I've been and so I bought some traditional lions. One

of the kindergarten teachers kindly advised me on what was a suitable souvenir to buy, as I was wary of buying anything representing an idol or evil spirit.

From all the kindergartens we experienced care, love and concern for the children. We also noticed the emphasis on the care and understanding of nature. In all of them were small gardens, vegetables grown, ponds with fish, tadpoles, also small animals to be taken care of, rabbits, birds. The one that was special was the butterfly garden at St. James' where children see the butterflies develop through eggs, caterpillars, cocoons and splendid butterflies.

Back at St. John's University, Easter weekend seemed to coincide with the nearby 'Pig Festival'. A huge slaughtered pig was on display in the next village as we passed through for all of us to see, and then cooked for a large feast. Everyone seemed to cooking and celebrating, and we had 2 days of long traffic jams to crawl through.

On Easter Eve at Advent Church we had the baptisms of 7 people in a delightful baptism pool. The seriousness of it all was broken when a small boy, aged about 3, who was to be baptized, preferred to splash and stamp his way around the pool!

On our way to St. John's Cathedral on Easter Day, we passed many high school students in school uniform off to school for extra study at school or cram school. An indication of the seriousness and the need to succeed academically. We were off the celebrate Christ Risen with a service and then a day's outing in a bus with the church congregation. We had a wonderful day with 130 church members from the cathedral.

Thank you for the lovely memories I take home with me to Australia. May God care for you and bless you.'



# 臺灣聖公會通訊

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The LORD bless you  
and keep you always!